

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, a businessman who ran for Congress to bring common-sense principles to Washington, has won the Florida Small Business Development Center Network's Small Business Award. The award honors a Floridian whose service to the state has supported legislation vital to the state's small business community and its economic success.

"I am honored to receive Florida's 9th annual SBDC small business award," said Buchanan. "Over 70 percent of the new jobs in this country are created by small business owners. I will never stop working for the very people who can bring jobs and prosperity back to America."

Buchanan serves on the House Small Business Committee. As the vice chairman of the Finance and Tax Subcommittee, he has worked to keep taxes low and increase the availability of capital to boost the economy and create jobs.

Buchanan supported the Economic Growth Act, which increased the small business expensing limit and allowed for additional depreciation deductions. His pro-business votes supported greater resources and training for veterans to become entrepreneurs. He has also invited constituents to testify at hearings in support of tax simplification, reform and incentives; S-corporation reforms; tax deferred and interest accrued disaster savings accounts; and lowering energy costs.

"It is clear through Congressman Buchanan's past and present actions that he is keenly aware of the importance of small business success to creating jobs and getting the economy back on track," said Jerry Cartwright, FSBDCN State Director. "Just recently, he called for the House to pass the 'Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act' which includes the expansion the Small Business Development Centers, SCORE, Women Business Centers and other small business support services."

FSBDCN staff used 15 specific small business votes from the second session of the 110th Congress to determine the 2009 Dividend\$ winner.

The Dividend\$ Award was presented to Congressman Buchanan at a special event in Sarasota, Florida.

Past Dividend\$ award winners are Sen. Bill Nelson, Sen. Bob Graham and former Congressman Andy Ireland.